

Middle East News

Clinton backs Bush action against Iraq as appropriate

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President-elect Bill Clinton said Sunday the U.S. missile strike against Iraq was "appropriate and forceful." His press secretary said the incoming administration was "prepared to continue taking appropriate action until Iraq complies."

Mr. Clinton and his advisers took a tough line towards the incoming president arrived in Washington for his inauguration on Wednesday.

Moments after Mr. Clinton's bus pulled up to the Lincoln Memorial for an inaugural festivity, his deputy national security adviser, Sandy Berger, boarded the vehicle to brief the incoming president.

There was no sign of retreat from the military confrontations between the Bush administration and Iraq. "We're prepared to continue taking appropriate action until Iraq complies," said Press Secretary Dee Myers.

Mr. Clinton's communications chief, George Stephanopoulos, said Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein "doesn't realize that there is no daylight between President Bush and President Clinton on this."

Mr. Stephanopoulos said Mr. Clinton "is determined to be tough" with the Iraqi leader.

"We've been fully briefed. We've been in regular contact," Mr. Clinton said of the increase in tensions that put a shadow over his otherwise festive bus journey through the Virginia countryside to the nation's capital.

"Saddam Hussein's continuing provocation has been met by appropriate and forceful response. I fully support President Bush's action," Mr. Clinton said. "Saddam Hussein should be very clear in understanding that the current and the next administration are in complete agreement on the necessity of his fully complying with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions."

Of the shooting down of an Iraqi fighter in the northern Iraq "no-fly" zone, Ms. Myers said: "He supports the action."

Clinton adviser Nancy Soderberg was with him on the bus tour and was keeping in constant touch by phone with Mr. Clinton's national security advisers Anthony Lake and Samuel Berger in Washington.

Saddam threatens retaliation

BAGHDAD (AP) — Here are remarks made by President Saddam Hussein in a radio broadcast Sunday after another American attack on Iraq.

"In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. O great people, delight of the nation's eye and its medals in faith, pride, and jihad. O sons of our glorious Arab Nation, the failures have once again returned to Baghdad. They returned to the beloved, faithful, steadfast, patient city — symbol of every city of honour and zeal. They returned to the city of God is great, carrying with them the wrath of the utter defeat which has characterised all their previous attempts since the beginning two years ago, up to the day of return on the 13th of this month. They returned to affirm the grudge of their forefathers since Saladin. They returned so that God will expose and disgrace them, humiliate their actions, and support the group of believers. Attack them, oh you, the delight of our eyes, the sash of our pride and crown of all the faithful. Strike. Oh brave ones."

"Strike, because the battle has come, the day will come, the sun that will never set will rise, so that you, the Arabs, and all faithful people will be at the level desired for them by Almighty God. And thus you may assume the great position — the position

Mr. Lake, in turn, was keeping in touch with National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and other members of the Bush team. Ms. Myers said.

White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater said Mr. Clinton had "not been asked for his approval" of Bush administration actions. "But we have tried to keep him informed every step of the way. President-elect Clinton has the benefit of all the details."

Mr. Clinton has been fully supportive of the Bush administration's handling of the latest Iraqi crisis, including last week's strike on Iraqi anti-aircraft installations.

And, he told reporters last week in Little Rock, that he would not rule out using force against Iraq, nor would he consider normalising relations with Iraq while President Saddam remains as ruler.

Meanwhile, in an interview on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley," Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said: "I think Saddam Hussein's brain is wired differently than the people I deal with on a regular basis. ... It doesn't make any sense, from my perspective, what he's doing now. But obviously he's got some rationale."

On Mr. Clinton's comments last week in a New York Times interview that he was not obsessed with President Saddam, Mr. Cheney said:

"There is Saddam Hussein out there and Iraq and the 'Persian' Gulf and it is a problem, but it's one of a long list of problems that Governor Clinton is going to have to deal with as soon as he becomes president on the 20th."

In an NBC interview, Mr. Clinton agreed that President Saddam might be testing him because of his lack of military experience.

But he said Iraq and other potential enemies would be very foolish to misjudge his intentions to act as commander-in-chief because he did not serve in the military.

Major: Allies unanimous

British Prime Minister John Major said there was complete agreement among the allies over Sunday's attack.

Speaking briefly outside Downing Street, the prime minister said the action was taken "after a great deal of consideration, after a great deal of con-

boarding a plane for Tokyo.

Japan supports attack

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday Japan supported the latest U.S. missile attack on Iraq and urged Baghdad to comply with the United Nation's Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

"Japan understands and supports the actions of the United States," Mr. Miyazawa said in a statement in Brunei before

leaving for Tokyo.

ANNA (AP) — The Philippine government said Monday it was monitoring the situation in the Gulf but would not evacuate its nationals from Iraq or Kuwait at this time. The U.S. Navy fired Tomahawk missiles Sunday at the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, in the second armed attack for Iraq's alleged failure to abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions. Officials said there were about 32,000 Filipinos in Kuwait and about 70 in Iraq, including 50 serving with the U.N. observer mission along the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

Kuwait airport passengers escorted to shelter

KUWAIT (R) — Security staff took passengers to air raid shelters for 10 minutes at Kuwait airport Monday. It appeared to be a precaution against a possible Iraqi attack that did not materialise, airport sources said.

The passengers, who had been waiting to board three flights, were taken to the shelters at about 12.50 p.m. (GMT) and released about 10 minutes later, the sources said.

A reported Iraqi Scud missile attack on Saudi Arabia, which

Western military sources said was destroyed before it reached its target, caused concern in the neighbouring emirate.

Turkish troops kill 5 rebels in southeast

ANKARA (R) — Turkish troops killed five Kurdish separatist rebels, one of them a woman, in a clash on Sunday in the southeastern province of Mardin, a statement from the regional governorate said. The statement gave no other details. Over 5,300 people have been killed in Turkey in the Kurdish Labour Party's nine-year fight for an independent Kurdish state.

Israeli court orders extradition

TEL AVIV (AP) — The supreme court Monday paved the way for the extradition of an American couple sought in the United States in the killing of a California secretary. The high court rejected an appeal by Robert and Michelle Manning seeking to block the extradition. Justice Minister David Libai will sign the extradition order in the next few days, said ministry spokeswoman Etty Eshed. The Mannings and their teenage daughter, Ilana, burst into tears when the ruling was announced, Israel Radio said.

Outside the court, supporters of the couple, most of them from the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba, shouted and cursed

photographers taking pictures of the distraught girl. The United States in December 1990 requested the Mannings' extradition on suspicion they were involved in sending a booby-trapped electrical appliance in 1980 to a computer firm in Manhattan Beach, California. A secretary of the company, Patricia Wilkerson, was killed when the device exploded as she plugged it in. Police have said the bomb apparently was intended for Ms. Wilkerson's boss, Brenda Crouthamel, with whom the Mannings had a private feud.

The Mannings moved to Israel about a decade ago, and lived in Kiryat Arba, a centre of hardline Jewish settlers. They Hebraised their names to Reuven and Rachel. They were arrested in March 1991, following the U.S. extradition request. The court approved the extradition in June 1991, and Mr. Manning said at the time the decision amounted to a "death sentence."

"The couple appealed to the high court. In the 1970s, Mr. Manning was active in the United States in the Jewish Defence League, a Jewish terror group founded by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane. Kahane's son, Benjamin, was among the couple's supporters in the supreme court on Monday.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Tribes settle vendetta in heart of Sanaa

SANA (AP) — Rival clans of the Hashed tribe of northern Yemen settled a vendetta right in the heart of the capital Sanaa in an incident involved two killings and the injury of six people. Security officials said that fire was exchanged between the two sides after Sheikh Ali Ahmad Al Soutouf of the Khiriyah region, inhabited by the Hashed tribe was killed in his car by followers of Sheikh Ali Hamed Gulaian, of Beni Qais region, from the same tribe. Shooting then broke out, resulting in one more dead and the injury of two pedestrians, including a woman, said the officials. Four of the policemen who rushed to contain the firing were also injured, they said. Members of both sides were arrested and confessed to the police that there had been a vendetta between the two clans and it was being settled. Members of Yemen's tribes often come down from their mountain strongholds to the capital with their arms and daggers. The country already is wracked by assassination attempts and bomb blasts, mostly due to rivalry between political parties. Attempts by the authorities to curb personal arms have failed. Meanwhile a criminal court began considering the case of a group of 20 people indicted by the state prosecutor for damage to public and private property during the four days of food riots in the country last month. More than 600 people were arrested in those riots protesting the spiraling cost of living. It was not known how many more have or will be indicted.

Hamadi accuses Germans of maltreatment

BEIRUT (AP) — Mohammad Ali Hamadi, one of two Lebanese brothers serving prison terms in Germany, accused jail authorities of denying him medical care, according to a letter published here Monday. The accusation came in a brief, handwritten letter published in the leftist Al Safir newspaper. A copy of the envelope was printed to prove authenticity of the letter, dated Jan. 6. Mr. Hamadi accused prison officials of refusing to allow a doctor to examine him and his brother Abbas Hamadi. "Our condition is getting worse as days go by," he wrote. "Jail officials have been ignoring us for quite a long time now." He added that he and his brother were banned from receiving visitors or communicating with the "outside world" and that he managed to sneak the letter out with "sincere friends." The Hamadi family has previously claimed the imprisoned brothers are regularly maltreated and often beaten and tortured by prison authorities and guards. German authorities repeatedly have denied the claims. Mohammad Ali Hamadi was sentenced in May 1987 to life in prison for the 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner and the killing of a U.S. navy driver. Abbas Hamadi was sentenced to 13 years for the 1987 kidnapping of two Germans, who were freed in Beirut in 1989.

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Philippines refrains from evacuation order

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Katyushas spark fear among Israelis

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Hundreds of residents of northern Israel searched for gas masks thinking Iran had launched its first Scud missile since the 1991 Gulf war.

But the thuds that broke the silence Sunday night were Katyusha rockets fired by guerrillas in Lebanon, military sources said. They caused no damage.

The revival of the Gulf war

ritual, when Israelis donned gas masks for fear of Iraqi chemical weapons, underlined the attention paid to the current war of words and missiles.

Developments in the Gulf have been followed closely by Israeli radio stations interrupting broadcasts with updates. But the army said Israelis could go on with life as usual.

"We just think that what the coalition forces are doing is a limited and very focused operation and it is between the coalition forces and Iraq so we are out of it," defence ministry spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said.

He said the United States was keeping leaders of Israel and other Middle East countries informed.

The Katyusha rockets Sunday evening set off a scramble for gas masks, said residents in northern Israel who had escaped attacks during the Gulf war.

The conflict has prompted some Israelis to stop putting off replacing their old masks with newer models. The army began the exchange a few months ago.

Israel Radio reported that Sunday's rockets caused no damage or injuries.

Arabs question 'double standard'

(Continued from page 1) Prince Hassan highlighted Jordan's keenness to preserve human rights through its role in the Arab Thought Forum.

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He called on the envoys to work on correcting the image of Arabs and Muslims abroad.

The Crown Prince also had a meeting with a group of Jordanian physicians and students living in Bonn. Discussions at the meeting focused on the role of the educated Jordanian youth in

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Prince Hassan meets German leaders

(Continued from page 1)

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building the future of the Kingdom.

Prince Hassan proposed the establishment of a data link between expatriate Jordanians and their homeland to benefit from their experience in the national development process.

On Sunday, Prince Hassan with Hans Dietrich Genscher, former foreign minister and leading political figure.

The Crown Prince arrived in Bonn Sunday following visits to the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

Prince Hassan described his two visits as very fruitful and they were part of preparations for holding a human rights summit in Vienna in June.

Arabs question 'double standard'

(Continued from page 1)

time the U.S. administration prevents the implementation of international resolutions on Israel which violates all the U.N. and Security Council resolutions and all the international conventions," the Palestinian agency WAFA quoted the spokesman saying.



Jordan's high birthrate poses problems for the future (file photo)

Birth rate threatens Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Population growth at its current rate in Jordan "may finally lead to the destruction of the Jordanian civilisation and even to its disappearance," according to Walter Radel, representative of the German Friedrich-Naumann Foundation (GFNF), who delivered the opening speech at Monday's seminar on "Population Growth and the Environment."

"If we compare the number of inhabitants in Jordan, which amount to four million at present, to the available resources and agricultural lands, we can deduce the bulk of the problem facing the country," Mr. Radel said.

Mr. Radel warned of the serious consequences challenging the world if population growth continues at the same rate: "There will be more poverty, more famines, more natural catastrophes, more social disturbances and more wars," he said.

"What is likely to happen in the near future is a total or partial destruction of the world as a result of an atomic war between the poor, over-populated countries in the south and the relatively advanced peoples in the north," Mr. Radel said.

According to statistics of a United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) study, the number of inhabitants in the world will reach 14 billion by the year 2050.

The study, conducted by Lina

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF



Prince Abdullah visits General Headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein visited Monday the General Headquarters of the Jordanian Armed Forces where he had a meeting with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Talib. Prince Abdullah also visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with its Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fuheid. Prince Abdullah was briefed on the role of the PSD in serving citizens and maintaining national security.

Health committee to visit hospitals

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Committee at the Lower House of Parliament held a meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Deputy Saad Haddadin. The committee plans to visit various hospitals and health centres in the Kingdom. Mr. Haddadin said, He said the committee will inform Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh of its plans.

Jordan, Morocco to follow-up on trade prospects

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian-Moroccan follow-up committee entrusted with overcoming obstacles to trade exchanges between the two countries will meet in Amman Tuesday. The committee will discuss means of implementing a trade and tourism agreement signed by Jordan and Morocco last year. Members of the Moroccan side in the committee will hold talks with officials from the public and private sectors on ways of promoting trade exchange between the two countries. The committee meetings will be co-chaired by Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Marwan Awad and Secretary General of the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism Rashid Ben Hilal.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the

American Centre

FILMS

- ★ German film entitled "Der Schimmelreiter" at the Goethe Institute — 8 p.m.
- ★ German film entitled "Berlin Chamisplatz" at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

JBA gears up for elections

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the date for elections of the Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) approaches, more lawyers have nominated themselves as candidates for president or board member.

Jawad Younes, Fahmi Abu Hweij, Omar Damra, Asaad Kamal Al Saadi, Isa Ismail Mahadin, Dr. Kamal Nasar and Khalaf Masadeh have announced their candidacy for president.

According to association sources, there are no women candidates today, but unconfirmed reports say Zahrah Sharabati and Nivin Sbaiq Nabil might declare their candidacy shortly.

Altogether 2,150 lawyers are eligible to vote in the election which is due in March.

Present Bar Association president Mr. Walid Abdul Hadi will not be running again; he has already served as president for two successive terms, association sources said.

They said that a total of 16 lawyers from Jordan and the occupied West Bank bave said they will run for the two-year term of board member.

According to association sources, heated rivalry is expected between the Democratic Bloc, the Islamists and the Professional Bloc.

More than 1000 lawyers are demanding drastic changes in the association structure and orientation, with a view to giving more attention to the professional rather than the political trends the sources said.

At least 257 West Bank lawyers are involved in the coming election and have already elected Mursi Hajjar from Jerusalem to serve on the 10 member board.

JD 2.8m to finance electrification projects

IRBID (J.T.) — The Irbid District Electricity Company (IDEC) has allocated JD 2.8 million to finance its expansion projects and develop existing power networks during 1993.

Company Director General, Abdul Raouf Al Sheikh, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the plans entail supplying electric power to new industrial, agricultural, educational and other developmental sites such as water and irrigation projects and the villages which are included in the new plans for electrification this year.

Mr. Sheikh said by the end of last year the company had succeeded in supplying electricity to 99 per cent of the areas under its concession in the Irbid government.

The area under IDEC concession includes the Irbid and Mafraq governorates with their towns and settlements such as Al Kharjeb, Al Masarrab, Haditiba, Zitim and Rahamat — all areas which have been supplied with electricity so far.

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Allies unleash fresh attacks on Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Gulf war. U.S. officials said the significance of the attack was in its proximity to Baghdad and the seat of power.

At least two houses were destroyed in the area, most window glass was shattered and apparent missile fragments rested in backyards.

"This is Bush's fault," said Mohsen Ali Muhammad as he pointed to bloodbath left by his three small daughters injured by flying glass.

"What child deserves this? I should leave this place as a museum for killings," said the businessman, whose wife and daughters were hospitalised.

Defence Department officials said that a Baghdad hotel in which two civilians were killed was hit by a U.S. Navy cruise missile.

A senior military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Defence Department had concluded that a Tomahawk cruise missile fired in Sunday's attack had been knocked off its intended course and exploded at the Al-Rashid Hotel.

The missile was knocked off course by Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery, the official said. It was fired from a Navy ship as part of Sunday's 40-missile attack.

"We regret the loss of life," the Pentagon official said.

Iraq said its forces had shot down eight of the U.S. cruise missiles.

"President Saddam Hussein has ordered to honour the fighters who downed missiles of the aggressors on Jan. 17," Baghdad Radio said quoting a military spokesman.

The radio said the president had awarded each military unit "half a million dinars for each missile shot." Half a million dinars is \$1.6 million at the official rate or \$12,500 on the black market.

At the Al Rashid Hotel a furious worker shouted, "Bush has blood on his hands."

A funeral cortege for the two hotel victims, including a military band, passed by the Al Rashid. The coffins were draped in Iraqi flags. One of the victims was a hotel receptionist.

The 14-storey hotel is home to many visiting journalists, several of whom were injured by the blast. It also was the site for the sixth World Popular Islamic Conference, a group of academics and religious officials from Muslim nations. The Iraqi News Agency said the conference was called to condemn allied aggression against Iraq.

The first of Monday's daytime attacks was carried out by 75 U.S., British and French aircraft against Iraqi missile sites in the south, where the allies had barred Iraqi flights since August.

An Iraqi military spokesman said allied aircraft struck nine military positions in Dhi Qar province and the city of Nassariya in southern Iraq and south of Mosul in the north, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

The agency said two raids south of Mosul were driven off by Iraqi defences, but made no claims of allied aircraft being hit.

Baghdad said three civilians were killed and 30 wounded in Sunday's missile attack.

Last Wednesday's allied air

lost somewhere in between."

The U.N. special commission, in charge of destroying Iraq's dangerous weapons, before Monday's allied attack had notified Iraq of plans to fly inspectors into the country Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

But U.N. sources said they did not expect an answer quickly in light of the raids.

Mr. Hamdoun said Iraq was gratified by support from Arab states, but would not elaborate. "We get all kinds of support from the Arab World, either back home or at the United Nations," he said.

The allies say they are trying to force Iraq to honour the U.N. resolutions that set the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

In announcing Monday's attacks, White House spokesman Paul Clarke said:

"This action has been undertaken in response to Iraqi moves to reconstitute its surface-to-air missile systems in the region south of the 32nd Parallel and to Iraq's openly proclaimed policy of challenging the no-fly zones."

Further provocations by Iraq will be dealt with forcefully and without warning," he said.

The Iraqi newspaper Babel called Sunday night's attack a crime and lashed out at Mr. Bush.

"George Bush wanted to end his black record and vindicate his defeat with a new bloodbath against the Iraqi people," the paper said.

Iraq also vowed Monday to fight for the right to control its land, sea and airspace.

State radio quoted Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan as saying: "Iraq categorically rejects violation of its sovereignty whether in land, sea or air."

"Any infringement of any of these (air, sea or skies) means submission to the principle of division," said Mr. Ramadan.

He urged the U.N. Security Council to uphold Iraqi sovereignty rather than undermine it.

The sovereignty of the country is an indivisible part and the duty of the Security Council is to preserve countries' sovereignty and not to issue resolutions to divide them according to the wishes of the United States, Britain and France."

Iraq's U.N. envoy said that Baghdad expected more attacks against it because it was U.S. government policy to use military force.

He repeated Baghdad's vow to retaliate against any future bombing by U.S.-led forces, saying "we have the right to retaliate and do whatever we can, in self-defence."

The people in the Bush administration and the allies have to come to a diplomatic, political solution. Fighting will not achieve anything."

The Turkish Foreign Ministry said coalition planes based in Turkey had not been involved in Monday's allied attacks at targets in southern Iraq.

"We always have expected and we still are expecting more attacks," he said in answer to questions.

Mr. Hamdoun, however, said he did not know what the next step would be in possibly authorising flights by U.N. weapons inspectors and guaranteeing their safety, one reason for the allied attacks.

Asked if the ball was now in Iraq's court, he said: "The ball is

in the area but hoped "this will be the case" in the future.

"I say this despite the bitterness and sadness of the moment; and I say this as an old friend of the United States," the King said.

Describing relations with Oman as excellent, King Hussein said his trip to Oman was a good step on the road towards ideal relations" with the Sultanate.

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raids on anti-aircraft batteries in southern Iraq killed 17 soldiers and two civilians and wounded 15 people, it said.

A Pentagon official said the second attack Monday was flown against anti-aircraft batteries in the north after their radars targeted coalition planes, indicating they were ready to fire.

Air raid sirens went off in Dharan, Saudi Arabia, which allied warplanes are using in the campaign against Iraq, and in Kuwait City as rumours circulated that Iraq had fired a Scud missile. Military and aviation officials could not confirm any attack.

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AC Milan extend unbeaten streak to 51

ROME (Agencies) — AC Milan extended its Italian League record unbeaten streak to 51 games, using Daniele Massaro's 21st-minute goal to beat Brescia 1-0 and maintain its eight-point lead atop the first division.

Brescia, 14th in the 18-team League with a 4-6-6 record, hampered its cause early in the match when Romanian striker Florin Raducioiu was ejected for arguing with the referee after being fouled.

Milan's victory improved its record to 13-3-0, keeping pace ahead of second-placed and cross-town rival Internazionale, which beat Parma 2-1 at San Siro Stadium.

In other 10th-round games Sunday, Juventus beat Pescara 2-1; Napoli beat Lazio of Rome 3-1; Fiorentina and Torino drew 0-0; Cagliari and Foggia tied 1-1; AS Roma and Sampdoria of Genoa drew 0-0; Ancona beat Udinese 1-0; and Genoa beat Atalanta of Bergamo 1-0.

At Milan, Ruben Sosa scored one goal and assisted on the game-winner, rallying Inter from a 1-0 deficit in the second half. Italian Olympian Alessandro Melli gave Parma the lead in the 20th minute, beating an inattentive Walter Zenga from outside the penalty area.

But Sosa tied the game in the 60th minute and then setup up Nicola Berti in the 74th.

At Turin, Roberto Baggio scored twice, the game winner coming with 12 minutes remaining, to end Juventus five-match winless streak. A volley off a cross by Antonio Conte gave Juventus the lead in the 11th minute, but Stefano Ferretti's header tied it seven minutes later. Baggio's second goal increased his season total to 10, handed Pescara its 11th loss of the season and kept it in last place, two points behind Ancona.

At Naples, Daniel Fonseca scored his 11th goal of the season and Massimo Crippa and Antonio Careca also scored to pace Napoli to its third consecutive



AS Rome's Claudio Caniggia (centre, up) and Sampdoria's Roberto Mancini (centre, front) head for the ball during the Italian First Division soccer championship match that ended with a 0-0 draw (AFP photo).

victory and end Lazio's four-match win streak.

Crippa gave Napoli the lead in the 29th minute off an assist from Jonas Thern and Fonseca added the eventual game winner in the 59th. Antonio Careca made it 3-0 in the 70th before Lazio's Giuseppe Signori scored with 12 minutes remaining to increase his League leading total to 17, three more than Udinese's Abel Balbo.

At Florence, after a 4-0 drubbing at Udinese last Sunday, new Fiorentina coach Aldo Agroppi fielded just one striker, Gabriel Batistuta, and finished with a goalless draw. The draw was Torino's ninth of the season, the most of any first-division club.

and extended its winless streak to six games.

At Cagliari, Luigi Di Baggio's 78th-minute goal rallied Foggia to a 1-1 draw despite finishing the game with only nine men. Pasquale De Vincenzo and Pierluigi Nicolli both were ejected after Massimiliano Cappioli gave Cagliari the lead in the 23rd minute.

At Genoa, Czech striker Tomas Skuhrovny scored in the 30th minute to lead Genoa and keep Atalanta from moving into third place. Atalanta, which finished 11th last season, fell one spot to fifth with an 8-2-6 record.

At Ancona, Sebastiano Vecchiori scored three minutes into the second half to lead Ancona, who had

which won for only the fourth time this season and remained in next-to-last place, three points behind as Roma.

Deportivo and Barcelona score wins

Spain's top two, Deportivo Coruna and Barcelona, both won 2-1 at home stretching their lead at the head of the table.

Coruna remain two points clear of Barcelona, who have a game in hand. Third placed Real Madrid, who drew 1-1 at Atletico Madrid Saturday, are now four points behind Coruna.

Champions Barcelona struggled to overcome Osasuna despite controlling the match.

During the first half Barcelona had seven clear strikes at goal with two shots rebounding off the woodwork, but it was 62 minutes before they opened the scoring with Jose Baquero knocking in a shot from close quarters.

Eleven minutes later Osasuna's Polish striker Roman Sosicki was fouled in the box, winning a penalty which he converted.

But Barcelona clinched victory in the 79th minute after a mix-up in the Osasuna defence left in Juan Goicoechea.

Coruna maintained their recent good form, beating lowly Real Oviedo.

Brazilian Striker Jose Bebeto opened the scoring with a penalty, his 18th goal of the season for Coruna, strengthening his position as the first division's leading marksman.

Oviedo defender Luis Elcacho, protesting against the penalty decision, earned himself a second yellow card and expulsion.

Coruna striker Claudio Barragan, made it 2-0 in the 50th minute. Croat Janko Jankovic snatched a goal back for Oviedo just before the end.

Sevilla's Diego Maradona inspired his side to a 2-0 win at Real Burgos with two beautifully floated free kicks which were struck home by Ricardo Bango and Davor Suker.



Hakeem Olajuwon goes up for another basket

Houston's Nigerian centre takes charge

HOUSTON (AP) — For the man they call "Hakeem the dream," this weekend's game was a dream performance.

Hakeem Olajuwon had a season-high 42 points, tied for the team lead with six assists and grabbed 12 rebounds. And to cap the awesome performance, he blocked the final shot, preserving Houston's 104-102 NBA victory over the New York Knicks.

"Is he unbelievable or what?" the Rockets' Winston Garland said after the win. "Hakeem is the world's best centre. I've never seen anybody better."

At least not this week, not even Knicks centre Patrick Ewing, who led New York with 20 points and 15 rebounds.

"Hakeem just got hot," Ewing said. "He was hitting everything he threw up."

Olajuwon's point total was his highest in three seasons and the most any Rockets player has scored against the Knicks.

"It's up there as one of the best (Games)," Olajuwon said. "Especially considering the opponent and what happened at the pressure time of the game."

Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich applauded Olajuwon, the 29-year-old Nigerian who will turn 30 Thursday.

"And what can you say about Hakeem?" Tomjanovich said. "It was a fantastic, gutsy performance. And to close it off with a block like that ... I don't know what else he can do."

The win was the fourth straight for the Rockets (18-16).

"We needed every point and I'm glad we got them," Olajuwon said. "The game was so important that if I had to do that much, I'm glad I did."

Olajuwon scored 16 points in the fourth quarter and Bullard came off the bench with 11 points in that period, including two 3-pointers midway in the final quarter.

With 18 seconds left, Olajuwon's basket gave Houston a 103-99

Becker falls to Jarryd in 1st round

MELBOURNE (AP) — An injured Boris Becker still was nearly good enough, but the fourth seed fell victim to mistakes and an opponent ranked No. 131 as the Australian Open got under way with a hang Monday.

Becker, the 1991 champion, was first up on Centre Court, a schedule he had requested in hopes that a quick victory and a couple of days off afterward would provide time to recuperate from a pulled right thigh muscle.

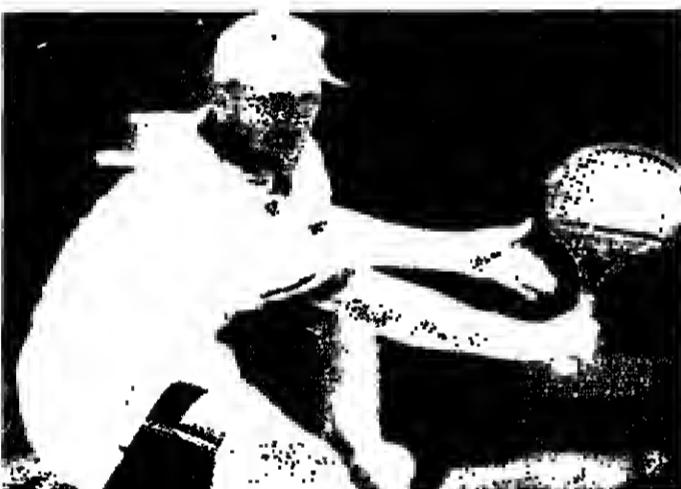
Instead, Sweden's Anders Jarryd, a qualifier who won only 11 singles matches in 17 tournaments last year, hung on long enough for the injury to steadily erode Becker's power game. The German, sporting a red beard, found himself on the sidelines with a 3-6, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 defeat.

The men's draw already had been hurt by the pre-tournament withdrawal of Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi and Goran Ivanisevic, whom Agassi beat.

Monica Seles, the defending women's champion and top seed, overcame an early bout of rustiness and fans who mimicked her controversial grunting to breeze past Gloria Pizzichini of Italy 6-1, 6-2.

Her male counterpart, top seed and defending champion Jim Courier, struggled in the first set against Sweden's Lars Jonsson before prevailing 7-5, 6-0, 6-3.

Also advancing on the first day of the two-week, \$4.82 million tournament were No. 7 Petr Korda, No. 9 Richard Krajicek, No. 11 Guy Forget, No. 12 Carlos Costa, No. 14 Michael Stich and No. 15 Sergi Bruguera among the men, and No. 6 Conchita Mur-



World No. 4 Boris Becker of Germany aims for a backhand return in the first Centre Court match of the Australian Open (AFP photo).

well in a big event. I haven't played really well. I don't know why. Sometimes I thought I lost motivation."

Becker, wearing blue stretch shorts under his white tennis gear, looked uncomfortable in the cool, breezy conditions, his

serve-and-volley game virtually defused and his awkward-looking groundstrokes spraying everywhere but in the court.

"I couldn't move on my first serve," the downcast three-time Wimbledon champion said.

"That's why I stayed more or less at the back. I couldn't run."

He lost his serve eight times and committed 52 unforced errors and 11 double faults — three in one game — to go with just 10 aces.

Seles, playing for the first time in nearly two months, looked up and laughed when fans started grunting every time she bit a shot during warmups.

The noise she makes when she hits virtually every ball became something of a cause celebre last year when opponents claimed it was distracting. A quiet Seles fell to Steffi Graf in the Wimbledon final, the only 1992 Grand Slam she didn't win.

"It was just funny when they started grunting. It was obvious they were having a lot of fun," said Seles, who admitted it bothered her at first. "I quickly regained my composure."

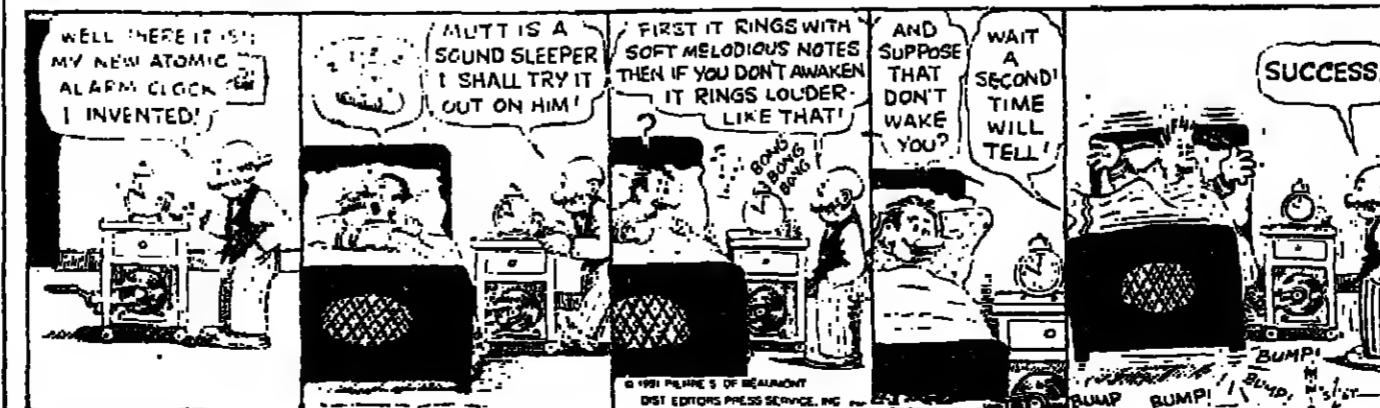
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JANUARY 19, 1993

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Sun enters Aquarius today and brings that imperceptible "something" in the air. The moon in Capricorn may make for a general sense of apathy for whatever project is being cooked up now.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Think about that materialistic course of action you have started in motion and see just how much you can make from it to add to your basic security.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

You see the best means by which you can enhance your personal charm and appearance at beauty or barber salon or other areas of personal toning up.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

You would be wise to devise a course of action whereby you can formulate a better plan to make your private ambitions become part of your life.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

Your intimate aims can be the best method by which to add to your present well-being and feeling that life is bringing you the benefits you seek.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

You see the best means by which you can enhance your personal charm and appearance at beauty or barber salon or other areas of personal toning up.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)

Now you can get into the details of a practical nature with an associate who is as purposeful as you are and get better accord if you both are open-minded.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)

Whatever you have promised, you need today to perform such duties in a very down to earth manner then everyone will be pleased.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

Lots of arrangements for future entertainment and amusements face you if you are going to have the best possible time with congenial companions.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

Don't let a condition that you do not like get you down at home but view it as you would an outside concern and it will be rapidly solved.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

If on the highway today be sure that your transportation is in good shape and take care not to become in accidents from others reckless driving.

better informed of the various itemized specifics that will go to make it a success for you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

A business person is now in the mood to release to you the information you want about a practical project that is of considerable importance to you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)

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THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS

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FRESH COMPLIMENTS FOR YOUR WIFE 50¢

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLING WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

WESTERN

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SHOOTING STARS

ASTRONOMERS PAY TO SEE.

CASMIO

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Financial Markets

 Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Date: 15/1/93		Date: 18/1/93
Sterling Pound ¹	1.5312	1.5358
Deutsche Mark	1.6355	1.6350
Swiss Franc	1.4970	1.4958
French Franc	5.5290	5.5235 ²
Japanese Yen	126.05	125.82
European Currency Unit	1.2010	1.2032 ³

¹USD per STG
²European Opening + 900 u.s. GMT
³European Opening + 900 u.s. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.13	3.31	3.68
Sterling Pound ¹	6.81	6.87	6.56	6.56
Deutsche Mark	8.50	8.31	7.93	7.37
Swiss Franc	5.43	5.50	5.43	5.18
French Franc	11.37	11.12	10.12	9.25
Japanese Yen	3.81	3.65	3.50	3.46
European Currency Unit	10.13	10.06	9.68	8.94

¹Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Precious Metals					Date: 18/1/93
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	327.85	6.40	Silver	3.68	.080

²24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 18/1/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.689	0.691
Sterling Pound	1.0571	1.0624
Deutsche Mark	0.4207	0.4228
Swiss Franc	0.4599	0.4622
French Franc	0.1245	0.1251
Japanese Yen ¹	0.5469	0.5496
Dutch Guilder	0.3743	0.3747
Swedish Krona	0.0946	0.0951
Italian Lira ²	0.0459	0.0461
Belgian Franc	0.02044	0.02054

¹Per 100

²Other Currencies

Date: 18/1/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7970	1.8180
Lebanese Lira ¹	0.036265	0.036485
Saudi Riyal	0.1833	0.1845
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.2900
Qatari Riyal	0.1866	0.1880
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7540	1.7750
UAE Dirham	0.1866	0.1880
Greek Drachma	0.51465	0.51865
Cypriot Pound	1.4195	1.4335

¹Per 100

²Other Currencies

Date: 18/1/93

Index	16/1/93	Close	17/1/93 ¹	Close
All-Share	163.62	164.04		
Banking Sector	131.79	132.35		
Insurance Sector	198.44	200.90		
Industry Sector	253.95	253.84		
Services Sector	249.67	251.18		

December 31, 1992 + 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2806/11	Canadian dollar	
1.6250/60		Deutschmarks	
1.8240/70		Dutch guilders	
1.4847/57		Swiss francs	
33.4044		Belgian francs	
5.4975/5025		French francs	
1482/1487		Italian lire	
125.64/69		Japanese yen	
7.2500/600		Swedish kronas	
6.8450/550		Norwegian kronas	
6.2450/550		Danish kronas	
1.5455/65			
One ounce of gold	\$328.05/328.45		

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Jan. 25, 1993 following the theatre's holiday

Happy New Year

JCB

CBJ memoranda take Jordan bankers by surprise

 By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Bankers in Amman were still perplexed Monday by the Central Bank of Jordan's (CBJ's) decision to hike the legal reserve it imposes on banks and financial companies. The bankers interviewed were unanimous that the decision was untimely and detrimental to the economic pick-up.

The CBJ Sunday issued two memorandums to all commercial banks and to all investment banks and financial companies informing them that, as of March 1, 1993, the legal reserve required by the central bank has been raised to 15 per cent and nine per cent respectively.

Legal reserves are funds that commercial banks, investment banks and financial companies are required to park with the central bank as deposits earning no interest. The current legal

reserve requirements are 13 per cent of the total deposits at commercial banks and seven per cent of all deposits at investment banks and financial companies.

The CBJ memorandums specified that 60 per cent of the obligatory legal reserve would be classified as a two-day notice deposit which cannot be released except after the central bank approval of the reasons for the requested withdrawal (s).

The remaining 40 per cent would be treated as current deposit.

Finance Minister Basel Jarashan firmly repeated: "The finance minister and the ministry of finance had nothing to do with the new measure. It was solely a decision by the central bank."

The CBJ governor refused to talk to the press about the reasons behind the abrupt raise in legal reserves.

CBJ Deputy Governor Michel Marto, in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, gave various explanations but never did answer the main question: Why was the legal reserve requirement hiked without any obvious reason?

Most general managers of commercial and investment banks found all kinds of excuses for not talking to the Jordan Times, while those who did accept to talk expressed total surprise at the CBJ move.

"I see no reason for the raise.

It seems to me and indirect tax because all the additional cash to be deposited at the central bank will only beef up the funds of the treasury," said the general manager of a bank, noting that the excess liquidity was not that high to warrant hiking the reserve.

Another general manager said that liquidity in the banking sector could be high at two or three known banks only, but others,

especially the late comers to the market, are at a total disadvantage.

"The central bank keeps urging us to lower interest on credits, but what it did Sunday forces us to do just the opposite: Keep interest on loans high," he said.

He went on saying that the financial market was not fairly balanced as each bank or financial company was a "special case" for one reason or another and, as such, CBJ unintentionally harms many entities by its latest memorandums.

"Sometimes I feel the CBJ is operating a double-standard philosophy," the bank chief pointed out.

Increasing the reserve requirement, in addition to mopping up excess liquidity from the market, serves the purpose of reducing inflation. But all bankers interviewed concurred in the opinion that inflation was low and did not constitute a threat to be coun-

tered by such a move by the CBJ. So why did the CBJ raise the legal reserve requirement on commercial banks, investment banks and financial companies?

An economist said the action was hard to grasp even though he agreed that the central bank could still go around all measures limiting credit growth and therefore, by raising the legal reserves, the CBJ was blocking all "escape routes."

The economist saw no reason for the CBJ to squeeze the market at this stage because, according to him:

— the credit ceiling under implementation in many forms is enough at present,

— the economy is not overheated as signs of soaring inflation and high employment are simply not there.

Jordan will be in a new upturn business cycle which should be allowed to go on and not throttled at this early stage.

Another banking analyst pre-

Fighting intensifies between Bosnia's Croat, Muslim allies

ZAGREB (R) — Fighting intensified between Croats and Muslims in central Bosnia Monday, splintering their civil war alliance against Serbs and undermining prospects of an international peace settlement.

Croat military and British U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesmen in the region reported fierce artillery and heavy machinegun duels as well as some hand-to-hand fighting in the ethnically split town of Gornji Vakuf and nearby communities.

"This situation is totally fraught. It's hard to see any light at the end of the tunnel," a UNPROFOR spokesman told Reuters by telephone from the area where former Muslim and Croat allies have begun fighting over shares of the territorial pie envisaged at the Geneva peace conference.

Croat-Muslim tension, long simmering in west and central Bosnia, flared into fighting last week after Geneva peace mediators designated much of the region for autonomous Croat rule despite its large Muslim minority. In some pockets Muslims are even in the majority.

Political power in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which seceded from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia last March, would be devolved to 10 cantons loosely based on ethnic makeup under the peace plan.

But Muslims, Bosnia's largest community, have rebuffed the cantonal blueprint because they say it would saddle them with the least territory, bowing to Serb or Croat occupation of more than 80 per cent of the republic.

Croat-Muslim battles worsened Monday after Bosnia's Muslim army commander, Sefer Halilovic, prohibited Muslim units in three sectors earmarked by peace mediators for Croat administration from submitting to Croat command.

"Fighting is going on in Gornji Vakuf just because Mr. Halilovic has stuck by what he ordered. There is no front line," Veso Veger, spokesman for Bosnia's Croatian Defence Council (HVO) forces, said from HVO headquarters in Mostar. —

The flashpoint of Croat-Muslim hostilities in Gornji Vakuf, a drab town of 5,000 people sitting on a strategic supply route between the Croat-held southwest Herzegovina region, near the Adriatic Sea, and Bosnia's disputed centre.

The British UNPROFOR spokesman said clashes had "erupted in a fairly big way" to the south and southwest of Gornji Vakuf, suggesting the conflict was escalating.

He said one town caught in the spread of fighting was Prozor, where HVO forces were reported by relief sources to have expelled Muslim inhabitants last year in an echo of Serb "ethnic cleansing" campaigns.

Meanwhile, a United Nations convoy delivered emergency food and medical supplies to a Bosnian Muslim town blockaded by Serbs for nine months and left Monday to return to Sarajevo, a U.N. spokesman said.

Peter Kessler, of the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said he did not yet have any word on the condition of the inhabitants of Zepa, previously reported to be dying from starvation and cold.

Communications with the convoy were very difficult in a remote, mountainous area, near the Serbian-Bosnian border, largely sealed off by Serb irregulars and rocked by fighting with Bosnian Muslim army forces.

The U.N. aid convoy finally reached Zepa Sunday after three futile attempts. Road blocks, including felled trees and minefields, forced it to try four different routes and spend two nights on freezing mountain trails before breaking through.

Mr. Kessler reported hold-ups of several other UNHCR convoys.

Relief trucks leaving Serb-surrounded Sarajevo for Vitez in central Bosnia to pick up supplies were stalled outside the capital for 11 hours at a Serb checkpoint Sunday.

Mr. Kessler said the convoy's way was blocked by 1,000 Serb women and children protesting at what they called an inadequate

distribution of U.N. supplies to Serb civilians stricken by Bosnia-Herzegovina's civil war.

Another UNHCR convoy headed for Sarajevo from an Adriatic coast supply depot turned back at a Serb roadblock outside the city after gunmen demanded 30 per cent of its cargo in exchange for passage. Mr. Kessler said.

The convoy spent the night in the Croat stronghold of Kiselic 30 kilometres to the northwest and would try to get into the capital again Monday.

Mr. Kessler said attempted extraction of relief convoys "was been happening more and often in the past few weeks."

He also said five local relief trucks on UNHCR contracts in central Bosnia had not been heard from since Wednesday. "They may be delayed by Croat-Muslim fighting in the region and have just decided to lie low until it abates."

Most parts of the Bosnian capital enjoyed a quiet night and Radio Sarajevo said Monday that the only fighting overnight was in the western frontline suburb of Dobrinja, which was hit by tank, mortar and cannon fire.

It added that 12 people were wounded in the besieged city Sunday.

Yugoslav and Bosnian government forces dueled with artillery in a sharp escalation of Bosnia's civil war, while Bosnian troops fought to cut off rebel Serbs from their Yugoslav allies.

Sunday's cross-border shelling marked the first time Yugoslavia has acknowledged intervening in the war since withdrawing its troops seven months ago from this former Yugoslav republic.

Serb rebels said the offensive by Bosnia's Muslim-led government near the Yugoslav border was the biggest in the region since the war began. The casualty toll was unknown, but it was clearly a bloody battle.

At least 46 Serb fighters and civilians were killed around the village of Skelani in southeastern Bosnia, the official Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported.

At a cemetery in Bratunac, a

town 3 kilometres from the front, the cries of Serb women mourning their dead were drowned out by explosions from the fighting, said AP reporter Dusan Stojanovic, who visited the area.

"Damn this war," Darinka Petrovic cried out as she knelt before a cross bearing the name of her son Dragan, 25.

The Serb, whose body has not been recovered, was killed in the Bosnian offensive, which is apparently aimed at cutting a corridor linking Serb-held areas with Serbia, the dominant state in what is left of Yugoslavia.

The cemetery was dotted with at least 100 fresh graves. Some of victims were as young 12.

In line with the Orthodox Christian Serbs' belief that there is life after death, many grave crosses were covered with shirts to keep the dead warm. Food, mortar and lighted cigarettes were also put on the graves.

Bosnian Serb villages near Bratunac, which lies along the Drina River border between Bosnia and Serbia, were gutted and gashed, Mr. Stojanovic reported. Bare beams were all that remained of roofs, and walls were punctured from bullets and cannon blasts. Pigs searched for food.

A source at Yugoslav army headquarters in Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia and Serbia, said Yugoslav artillery fired into Bosnia a day after Muslim forces fired into Yugoslavia.

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At a cemetery in Bratunac, a



U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton, his wife Hillary, and daughter Chelsea wave farewell to the people of Arkansas after an airport rally. The Clinton family

flew to Charlottesville, Virginia for the start of the planned bus trip to Washington D.C. (AP photo)

Clinton conquers Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — A buoyant Bill Clinton pushed aside "the complex and massive problems" soon to confront him and stepped towards the presidency with a visit to his old campus and a talk to foreign ambassadors awaiting America's new leader.

Washington cracked with anticipation over Wednesday's ceremonial installation of a young, new president whose instincts had been shaped by neither global war nor economic depression.

Spread out as far as the eye could see, a third of a million waving, cheering, picture-taking people welcomed Mr. Clinton and Vice President-elect Al Gore and their families to the capital on a mild Sunday evening in January.

Democrats celebrated the first inauguration of one of their own in 15 years. Mr. Clinton embraced it all, throwing his head back in laughter, bugging old friends, giving the thumbs-up signal.

Renewed bombing in Iraq disrupted none of it.

Mr. Clinton's hours until his investiture at noon (1700 GMT) Wednesday brim with purposeful symbolism, touching all bases — a word with the diplomatic corps, a tribute to the slain martyr of black Americans, a meal with some of society's victims.

In the first such session, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore arranged to meet Monday with 180 foreign ambassadors at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

In the 1960s, Mr. Clinton was a student on that Gothic campus while working part time in the office of his state Senator, J. William Fulbright.

Mr. Clinton planned to observe

Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday with students at federally supported Howard University, the nation's premier black university.

And he and Mr. Gore invited to lunch 53 citizens struck by adversity whom one or the other of them had encountered during the campaign. The citizens had told of illnesses, job losses, terrible crimes to which they had fallen victim.

President George Bush stayed out of sight at the presidential retreat in the Maryland mountains. Over the weekend, he entertained members of the Supreme Court and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, his wife and three children. The Bushes will meet the Clintons at the White House shortly before the inauguration.

Foreign problems occupied Mr. Clinton's first evening in Washington. He met for several hours at Blair House with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Colin Powell, with Mr. Gore and Warren Christopher and Les Aspin, his nominees for secretaries of state and defense, respectively.

A somber undertone broke through Mr. Clinton's remarks as he made his way to Washington from Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Va.

He stopped outside an old country church in the village of Warrenton, Va., and talked to the townsfolk of "the complex and massive problems" that await him.

He asked for national unity: "We must go forward together or not at all."

When Mr. Clinton's bus pulled to Washington, Samuel Berger, who will serve as a foreign

policy adviser, climbed aboard to brief him on the new Iraqi bombing raids. Mr. Clinton issued a statement supporting Mr. Bush.

To the mass of people at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Mr. Clinton mentioned the batards on display in Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq and elsewhere.

He said the virtues of diversity, still elusive in places in America, had not yet been learned in those foreign places, "as we see today so painfully."

At that hallowed place, Mr. Clinton appealed to his countrymen to set differences aside.

"In this world of tomorrow, we must go forward together or not at all," he said, and recalled Lincoln's unheeded inaugural appeal: "We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies."

With that, Mr. Clinton walked the length of memorial bridge to a park on the banks of the Potomac.

First he, then daughter Chelsea pulled a thick red rope, ringing a liberty bell replica. They heard thousands of bells ring in response.

Beaming in delight, Mr. Clinton applauded a message from five U.S. astronauts in the heavens above. He flashed a "thumb's up" signal.

At ceremonies across the nation, from the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial in Atlanta to the streets of San Francisco's Chinatown where a new Chinese year was welcomed in, bells rang in response.

Mr. Clinton was saluted by 21 swift jets — and serenaded by 10 of the nation's best saxophone players. Fireworks lighted the Washington sky.

Japan's oldest person celebrates 114th birthday

TOKYO (R) — Japan's oldest living person, Tane Ikai, celebrated her 114th birthday in her hospital bed in the central city of Nagoya Monday, television and newspapers reported. Mrs. Ikai, who was born in Nagoya in 1879, received a birthday bouquet from the mayor. She has lived in hospital since suffering a stroke in 1988. Mrs. Ikai has outlived her four children, but has two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Bush has cleaned out his desk

WASHINGTON (AP) — George Bush may be president for another week, but he's already cleaned out his desk. The Oval Office looked unusually bare to photographers on hand as Mr. Bush signed an economic report Tuesday. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, "he's already taken the pictures out of his office. They're in boxes, headed to Houston." Until last week, the desk and the walls behind it were filled with pictures and mementos. Mr. Bush will spend only a few more nights in the White House. He went to Camp David, Md., Friday and will not return until Tuesday, the eve of Bill Clinton's inauguration.

Big signs rejected as eyesore

SINGAPORE (AP) — Billboards and big advertising signs mounted atop buildings are a blight on Singapore's skyline and will be phased out, officials said. The glittering neon and prominent signs must go to achieve a more pleasant cityscape, according to the Public Works Department. Sign companies and outdoor advertising firms have been told that no new licenses will be issued for free-standing billboards and large signs on the walls of buildings. The notification said that while gaudy signs might have been suitable in the 1950s and 1960s, they are now unacceptable. Social engineering is the norm and the authorities often tinker with living conditions in this city-state of three million people.

Tongue-tied thais blast phone company

BANGKOK (R) — A powerful bomb that damaged a telecoms office in eastern Thailand may have been planted by customers angered by the shortage of working phone booths, residents said. Local residents said they believed the bomb might have been planted by customers angered because many public telephones in Chanthaburi province had been out of order for months. They said people had recently taken to laying black funeral wreaths next to broken public phones. Police said the bomb shattered windows at the provincial telephone centre and destroyed five booths.

Sinister background to Clinton's handiwork

NEW YORK (R) — Bill Clinton may belong to a different political party and a different generation but he has one thing in common with the man he will replace at the White House — he is left-handed. "This year, we could lose, regardless of the election outcome," said Kim Kipers, editor of Lefthander magazine, pointing out that not only Mr. Clinton and Mr. Bush but also independent candidate Ross Perot is left-handed. Mr. Clinton's victory earned him the Lefthander of the Year Award from Lefthanders International. Before "sinister" acquired its modern meaning it meant left-handed.

Table tennis hits sticky patch over glue ban

LONDON (R) — Substance abuse has struck the sporting world again, involving players in one of the seemingly safest of indoor events — table tennis. Instead of sniffing or shooting South East Asia. The officials said Mr. Miyazawa was impressed by the region's strong economic growth and political stability.

"My impression has indeed confirmed that this region offers the brightest prospect among the various regions," Mr. Miyazawa was quoted as saying by a senior official.

Delivering a keynote address in Bangkok Saturday, Mr. Miyazawa pledged to work with ASEAN to build a secure and prosperous South East Asia.

"Japan will think and act with ASEAN," Mr. Miyazawa said.

During his talks with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Sunday, Mr. Miyazawa said Tokyo was renewing its long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) order from Brunei and had agreed to discuss a row over air links, the only hiccup in otherwise smooth relations.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunmen kill 9 in S. Africa ambush

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Gunmen killed nine people and wounded several others in an ambush on a minibus in Natal province, police said. A police spokesman said two unidentified gunmen opened fire on the minibus near Petermaritzburg, a focus of violence in an eight-year battle for political control of black townships in the Zulu dominated Natal province. He said the driver and two passengers escaped before the vehicle overturned and plunged down an embankment. The gunmen fired into the wrecked bus, killing nine people and wounding a number of others. Human rights monitors have said more than 12,500 people have died since 1984 in fighting between Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party and in conflict with police and government troops.

Storm creates havoc in California

LOS ANGELES (R) — Rain-weary residents battled flood waters and mudslides after another fierce winter storm raked soggy southern California, causing at least seven deaths and forcing thousands of people out of their homes. Across the U.S.-Mexican border in Tijuana, the latest storm system brought the death toll to 27 after two weeks of steady rain inundated the city's shantytowns. Nearly 6,000 people were left homeless. After enduring six years of drought, southern California has been drenched by record rainfall over the past 10 days. As of Sunday, Los Angeles had received just over 15 inches (38 cm) of rain since the beginning of the season in July — slightly more than its normal average for an entire year. The storm was blamed for at least seven deaths in southern California. A family of five was killed Sunday in Riverside County when their pickup truck was trapped in rising flood waters, police said. A 44-year-old man drowned Friday after being swept into a creek in long beach. One storm-related death was reported in Arizona, which was suffering its worst flooding in a decade.

Hawaiians march for sovereignty

HONOLULU (AP) — About 10,000 native Hawaiians and their supporters marched to the former royal palace, denouncing the U.S. government for its part in the overthrow of their island queen a century ago. Yet amid the calls Sunday for more Hawaiian sovereignty was disagreement about what exactly that means. Sentiments range from those seeking only an official apology from the United States to those calling for an independent Republic of Hawaii. "They (Americans) are our enemies, they took our lands, they imprisoned our queen, they have banned our language, they forcibly made us a colony of the United States" shouted Haunani Trask, a University of Hawaii professor and leader of Ka Lahui Hawaii. Her group supports more autonomy for native Hawaiians within the current state and federal system. Sunday's march and other events climaxed five days of activities commemorating Queen Liliuokalani's overthrow. It included Gov. John Waihee's decision to remove the U.S. flag from state buildings in the capital district of Honolulu until Monday.

Pro-independence rally held in Crimea

MOSCOW (AP) — More than 10,000 pro-Russia protesters marched through the Black Sea port of Sevastopol Sunday to demand Ukraine allow a referendum on independence for Crimea, news reports said. The rally was organised by two groups seeking independence for the strategic southern region, the Interfax News Agency reported. The protesters accused the Ukraine government of pursuing nationalist policies and called for a referendum on independence no later than March 1994. Interfax said.

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